

Agrovets mentoring: a framework for improving performance and strengthening frontline animal health in East Africa



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Background: The problem

In Kenya, Agrovets (agriculture and veterinary drug stores run by paraprofessionals) play a key role in primary animal healthcare with over half of all livestock treatments being sourced from them.

Agrovets are located in urban and remote areas making them more available, accessible and affordable than qualified animal health practitioners.

However, poor training, weak regulation and harmful non evidence-based practice weakens the animal health system, contributing to One Health issues such as the spread of infectious disease and antimicrobial resistance.

Methodology

Brooke is an international animal welfare organisation working in low resource settings across Africa, Asia and Latin America.

- In 2017 Brooke East Africa identified 24 Agrovets as a priority for capacity building and training.
- A student centered mentoring approach was developed, the Agrovets Mentoring Framework (AMF).
- The mentor is empowered to focus on the practical skills and background knowledge that are relevant to the work of that practitioner. Five areas are assessed:



legal compliance



communication



pharmacological expertise



shop content



governance

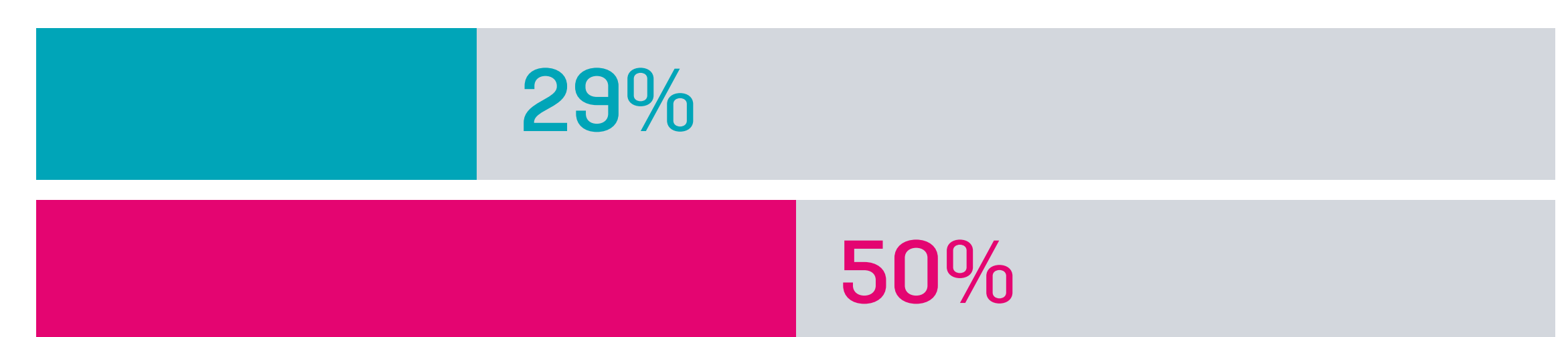
- Quantitative performance is categorised into **outstanding**, **good** and **requires improvement**.
- Concluding a pilot period involving consultation, iteration and standardisation of the AMF, mentoring increased to 62 Agrovets in 19 counties across Kenya and 2 districts in Tanzania.
- Quarterly quantitative and qualitative data is collected and analyzed to inform the ongoing mentoring and intervention design.



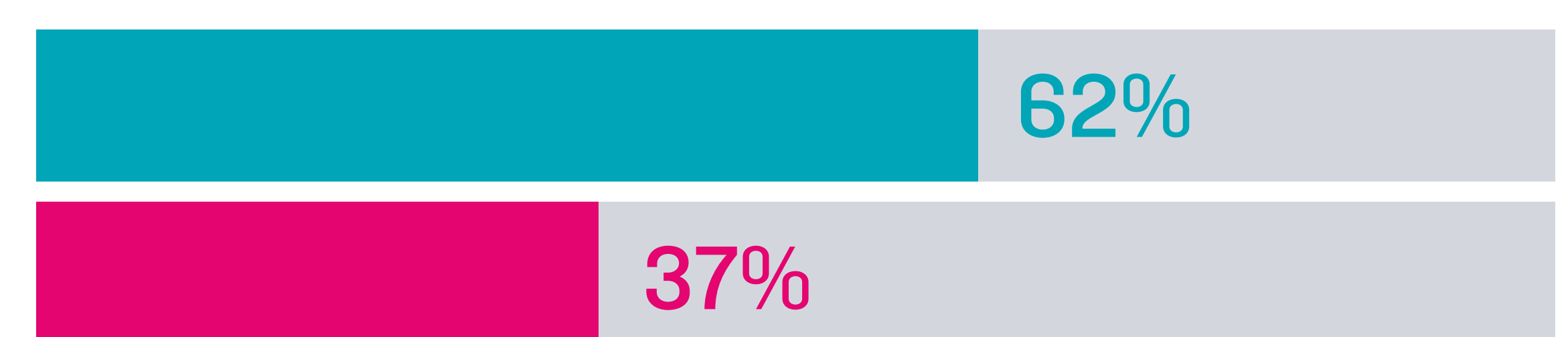
Results

In **2017** and **2019** AMF results indicated:

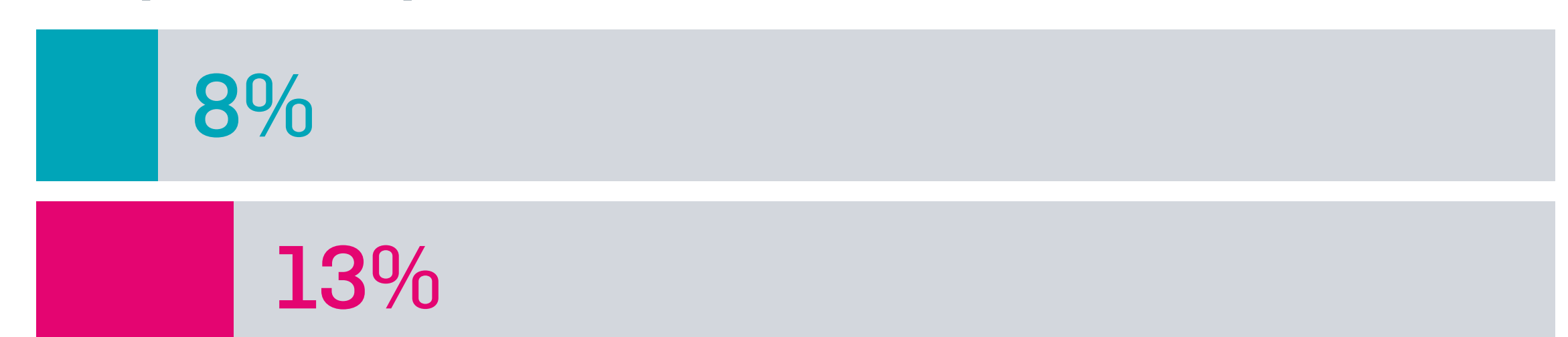
Outstanding



Good



Requires Improvement



Conclusions

1 Agrovets and other veterinary paraprofessionals are critical to frontline animal health and welfare in low and middle income countries. They play a key role in appropriate use of antimicrobials and therefore Agrovets training and regulation is essential to One Health.

2 Brooke's AMF is an effective tool to build skills in the workplace, combat gaps within the system and strengthen inter-professional relationships.

3 By developing competent, confident and compassionate paraprofessionals the AMF has the potential to improve the health of animals, people and the environment at grass root level.

